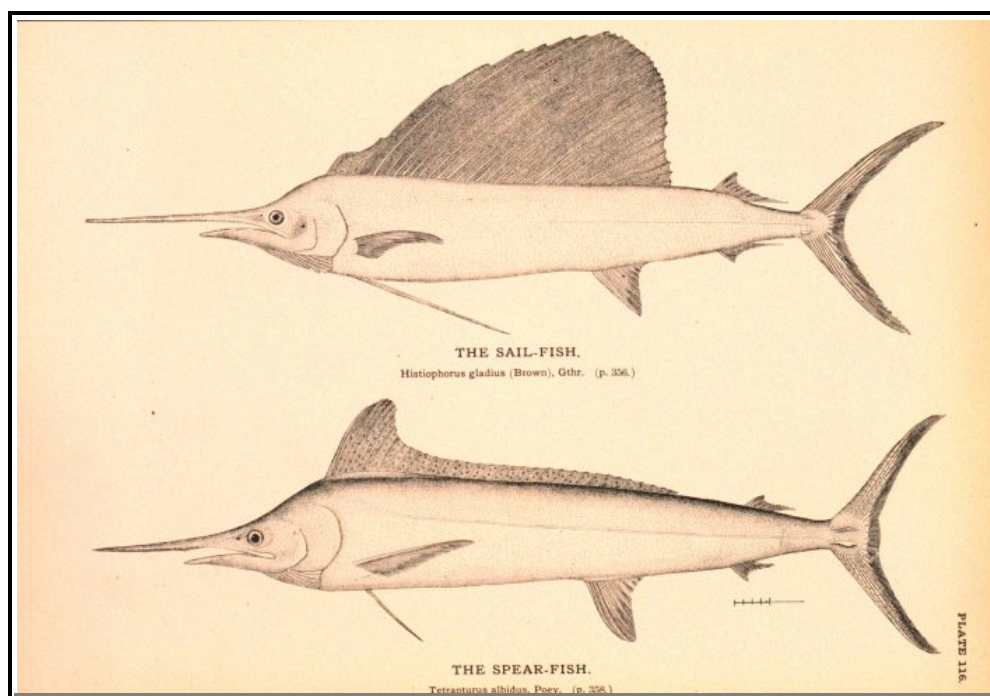


# 2001 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service



# **2001 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species**

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of Sustainable Fisheries  
Highly Migratory Species Management Division  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**March 2001**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### *Documentation Requests:*

All documents cited in the SAFE report, as well as additional copies of the report, are available from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service:

Othel Freeman  
1315 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Phone: (301) 713-2347  
Fax: (301) 713-1917

### *Dealer Permits:*

Tuna dealer permits are issued out of the Northeast Regional Office of NMFS (978-281-9370), shark and swordfish dealer permits are issued out of the NMFS Southeast Regional Office (727-570-5326).

### *Atlantic Tuna Permits:*

Questions regarding the Atlantic tunas permit process should be directed to Commerce One Customer Service at (888) 872-8862, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time. Fishermen may also listen to or view updates to the regulations via the toll-free automated telephone system or the website ([www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com)).

### *Atlantic Shark and Swordfish Permits:*

Questions regarding renewals or transfers of shark and swordfish limited access permits should be directed to the NMFS Southeast Regional Office (727-570-5326).

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report provides a summary of the best available scientific information on the condition of stocks, marine ecosystems, and fisheries being managed under federal regulation. Consistent with the guidelines for National Standard 2 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the SAFE report is prepared annually and used as a reference in the evaluation and refinement of fisheries management practices. The report updates the data necessary to determine appropriate annual harvest levels, documents significant trends in the resource, marine ecosystems, and fisheries over time, and identifies associated bycatch and safety issues. Through a comprehensive annual update of key biological, economic, and social indicators, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) can ensure use of the best available scientific data in its decision making process.

The 2001 SAFE report for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) includes the latest stock assessment data, recommendations, and resolutions from The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and their Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) through December 2000. The report is divided into the following nine sections: Stock Assessment Update; Essential Fish Habitat; Fishery Data Update; Economic Status of HMS Fisheries; Community and Social Data Update; Fish Processing, Industry and Trade; Bycatch; HMS Permits; and Issues for Consideration and Outlook.

### *Stock Assessment Update*

The SCRS conducted several stock assessments in 2000, including: West Atlantic bluefin tuna, Atlantic yellowfin tuna, North and South Atlantic albacore tuna, and Atlantic blue and white marlin. The bluefin tuna, North Atlantic albacore, and marlin stocks remain overfished. Yellowfin tuna and South Atlantic albacore stocks are fully fished. A stock assessment for Atlantic blue marlin and Atlantic white marlin was completed in July 2000. A two-phase rebuilding plan for Atlantic blue and white marlin was recommended by ICCAT in November 2000. No stock assessments for Atlantic sharks were conducted in 2000.

### *Essential Fish Habitat*

Several investigations continued surveying shark nursery grounds and pupping areas along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts during 2000. Early life history studies on billfish are providing important essential fish habitat information. A comprehensive program examining the importance of the Charleston Bump area to a suite of fishery resources, including HMS, was conducted this year. This program is taking a multi-disciplinary approach to describing biological and oceanographic features of this important nursery and fishing area.

## *Fishery Data Update*

There are several sources of new information concerning HMS fisheries. These include updated catch and landings data, logbook and observer data, and recently conducted social surveys. In this document, data are analyzed by gear type to more easily assess the implications for each of our multi-species fisheries. Some of the more important developments from 2000 are:

- implementation of time/area closures, gear modifications, and gear requirements to reduce bycatch (including HMS species and sea turtles) in the pelagic longline fishery;
- implementation of vessel monitoring systems on pelagic longline (which was delayed indefinitely by a Federal court ruling);
- Advanced Notices of Proposed Rulemakings to implement a recreational monitoring program for billfish and swordfish, as well as to reduce bycatch of bluefin tuna;
- ICCAT's adoption of a two-phase rebuilding for Atlantic blue and white marlin, and the implementation of the 10-year international rebuilding program for North Atlantic swordfish adopted by ICCAT in 1999;
- updated estimates of shark catches by U.S. fishermen from the 2000 Shark Evaluation Annual report; and
- settlement agreements were reached in two shark lawsuits.

## *Economic Status of HMS Fisheries*

The 2001 SAFE report includes a section on the economic status of commercial and recreational HMS fisheries. In the previous SAFE report, this information was presented in association with various gear types, but this year's report combines all available economic information into one section, including: production (U.S. and international); ex-vessel prices; wholesale prices; fishing costs and revenues for commercial fisheries; costs and revenues for dealers; recreational fishing; and charter/headboat fisheries. In addition, this section provides a review of rules that had or will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

## *Community and Social Data Update*

Analyses relative to National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act rely heavily on the availability of community studies and profiles. As HMS by definition are highly migratory resources, fishermen often tend to shift locations in an attempt

to follow the fish. The inclusion of typical community profiles in HMS management decisions is somewhat difficult and continued social and community studies to identify the participants in these fisheries are of great importance. This section of the SAFE report includes an overview of current information and provides a summary of new research, including a social and economic examination of the fishing ports and coastal counties along the mid-Atlantic coast. This section also provides a summary of expected community and social impacts of several agency actions completed during 2000.

### *Fish Processing, Industry and Trade*

Domestic and international consumer preference continues to play a large role in HMS markets. The Fish Processing, Industry and Trade section provides an overview of U.S. trade activities relative to HMS, required documentation, and summaries of U.S. imports and exports of HMS products. Bluefin tuna trade remains strictly monitored through use of the Bluefin Statistical Document program. Data indicate that roughly 84 percent of Atlantic bluefin tuna landed in the United States in 1999 were exported. Sharks and shark products continue to be an important export, although the nature of reporting is much less detailed than that used for bluefin tuna. Swordfish are an important import into the United States, as indicated by data collected through the Swordfish Import Monitoring Program. The use of trade data is an important tool in the monitoring and management of HMS and an effective supplement to existing information sources. In 2000, ICCAT also recommended an enhancement of trade monitoring efforts for swordfish and bigeye tuna in the coming years.

### *Bycatch*

Bycatch of finfish and sea turtles and incidental catches of marine mammals and sea birds continue to be areas of concern in HMS management, with major steps taken during 2000 to reduce bycatch in the pelagic longline fishery through implementation of several time/area closures, gear modifications and gear restrictions. These actions were taken in compliance with the HMS FMP and a Biological Opinion (BO) on HMS fisheries received on June 30, 2000. Bycatch in the squid mid-water trawl and menhaden purse seine fisheries is also discussed in this section. A summary of agency actions taken during 2000, as part of the National Bycatch Plan, is also provided. A challenging aspect in dealing with bycatch is the international component of HMS fisheries, particularly considering that the United States often represents only a small percentage of the overall catch of these species on an Atlantic-wide basis.

### *HMS Permits*

NMFS continues to explore effective and equitable means to reduce overcapitalization problems. As of October 2000, there were 982 total permit holders in the limited access commercial shark, swordfish and tuna (pelagic longline only) fisheries. This section provides additional management actions that may be considered to further reduce the number of permits, if

deemed necessary. Options for upgrading and safety issues are also discussed.

NMFS has made significant improvements to its Atlantic tunas permitting system, including a website where constituents can purchase initial and renewal permits for Atlantic tunas, update permit information, and report recreational landings of bluefin tuna ([www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com)). Increasing the level of automation in the permitting process as well as the methods of renewal (i.e., phone, fax, Internet) is expected to improve constituent satisfaction and reduce administrative costs. NMFS hopes to build upon this success and consider automating other HMS permitting processes in the future.

### *Issues for Consideration and Outlook*

In 2001, NMFS plans to continue implementing and evaluating the FMP measures in an attempt to address overfishing and overcapitalization problems that affect many HMS fisheries. It is anticipated that as a result of the HMS FMP, Amendment 1 of the Atlantic Billfish FMP and the 2000 ICCAT recommendations that more focus will be placed on implementing and/or enhancing monitoring of HMS recreational fisheries through charter/headboat permits and logbooks, observer programs, and landings of billfish and swordfish by recreational anglers. New SCRS information, new ICCAT recommendations, and other recently released studies need to be incorporated, consistent with National Standard 2. Improvements in data coordination and management within NMFS and with other agencies should contribute to increasingly effective monitoring and management. Further actions related to the June 30, 2000, BO on HMS fisheries, as well as the anticipated BO early in 2001 resulting from a re-initiation of consultation are expected to address loggerhead and leatherback sea turtle bycatch in Atlantic pelagic longline fisheries. The April 2 - 4, 2001 HMS Advisory Panel meeting provides an excellent opportunity to identify and discuss those issues raised in the SAFE report which require further action. Through continuous public and constituent interaction, increased monitoring, ongoing life history work, and additional socio-economic assessment, NMFS strives to continue building sustainable fisheries for all Atlantic Highly Migratory Species.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) establishes a long-range management process to manage sustainably the nation's fisheries beginning with the creation of a Fishery Management Plan (FMP). A component of the *Final Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, Sharks* (HMS FMP) and *Amendment One to the Atlantic Billfish Fishery Management Plan* (Billfish Amendment) is the production of an annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report. The SAFE report provides a summary of the best available scientific information on the condition of stocks, marine ecosystems, and fisheries being managed under federal regulation. Consistent with the guidelines for National Standard 2 (NS 2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the SAFE report is prepared annually and used as a reference in the evaluation and refinement of fisheries management practices. The report updates the data necessary to determine appropriate annual harvest levels, documents significant trends in the resource, marine ecosystems, and fisheries over time, and identifies associated bycatch and safety issues. Through a comprehensive annual update of key biological, economic, and social indicators, NMFS can ensure use of the best available scientific data in its decision making process.

The 2001 SAFE report for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species is a vehicle to introduce information made available after completion of the final HMS FMP and Billfish Amendment One of the Atlantic Billfish FMP, identify additional management issues that may need to be addressed, and begin preliminary assessment and evaluation of the fishery regulations. The SAFE report includes the latest stock assessment data, recommendations, and resolutions from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and their Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). In adherence with NS 2 guidelines, the report presents a comprehensive summary of the most recent Atlantic HMS fisheries-related data from a variety of sources across a wide range of disciplines. In addition, the current information is contrasted with previous years' data to highlight important trends and concerns for future management.

The SAFE report is divided into nine sections: Stock Assessment Update; Essential Fish Habitat; Fishery Data Update; Economic Status of HMS Fisheries; Community and Social Data Update; Fish Processing, Industry and Trade; Bycatch; HMS Permits; and Issues for Consideration and Outlook. The structure of the SAFE report is designed to provide a cohesive view of new information and present it in a format that is easily accessible to managers, Advisory Panel members, and the public.

### **1.7 Update on HMS Activities During 2000**

The year 2000 was very active for the HMS Division, with several significant actions completed during this year. On February 9-11, 2000, an Advisory Panel meeting was held in

Silver Spring, Maryland. The HMS and Billfish panels provided valuable comments on a suite of management actions to be considered during calendar year 2000, including the following issues:

- ICCAT overview
  - Swordfish assessment and rebuilding
  - Trade issues
  - Northern albacore tuna rebuilding options
- Time/Area Closure Proposed Rule
- Bluefin tuna issues
  - Restricted fishing days
  - Bag limits
  - General category effort control
  - Angling category allocation
- Current HMS Activities
  - Essential fish habitat
  - Upcoming proposed rules:
    - Permitting
    - Authorized gears in HMS fisheries
    - Billfish commercial prohibition clarification
- Long Term Activities and Planning
  - Budget
  - Permitting/reporting
  - Economic data collection
  - Communities
  - Research

One of the major accomplishments of 2000 was completion of Regulatory Amendment One to the Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks FMP to reduce bycatch, bycatch mortality, and incidental catch in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. On June 14, 2000, the Final Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS), Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) were published and made available for public review, with the implementing regulations establishing time/area closures and gear restrictions published on August 1, 2000 (65 FR 47214). Several Congressional Bills with alternative time/area closure scenarios and vessel buy-back options to reduce bycatch in the pelagic longline fishery were also developed during 2000. The HMS Division provided numerous comments and analyses on the potential impacts of proposed Congressional closures; however, none of the bills were passed by Congress during 2000. Another important bycatch action taken during this year was the preparation and publication of an emergency rule on October 13, 2000 (65 FR 60889), closing

areas of the Grand Banks and requiring the use of line cutters and dip nets by the pelagic longline fishery. More information is provided on the specifics of these rules in Chapter 9 (Bycatch) of this document.

The international Atlantic swordfish rebuilding program developed as a result of a 1999 ICCAT recommendation was implemented this year, with the United States establishing a reduced North Atlantic swordfish quota over the next three years (December 12, 2000; 65 FR 77523). Further, a 320 mt dead discard allowance was implemented for the 2001 fishing season; the dead discard allowance will be incrementally reduced to 0 mt by 2003. Finally, the December 12, 2000, final rule also prohibited imports of bluefin tuna from Equatorial Guinea, as well as swordfish from Belize and Honduras.

Numerous Atlantic tuna actions were completed during 2000, with several relating to bluefin tuna (BFT), including annual quota specifications, closures, proposed changes to the Angling Category north/south line, in-season transfers in quota distribution, adjustments to Angling and General category retention limits, determination of state jurisdiction, and trade restrictions. An Advanced Notice for Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) was also completed relating to developing a requirement for mandatory dealer reporting for Atlantic bigeye, albacore, yellowfin and skipjack tunas. An ANPR was published on November 17, 2000 (65 FR 69492), requesting comments on reducing BFT bycatch by pelagic longline gear.

The draft National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Conservation and Management of Sharks was made available for comment during 2000, as was the draft NPOA for Seabird Bycatch in Longline Fisheries. The final shark NPOA was published in early 2001 and made available to the public. NMFS also reached a settlement agreement during 2000 with the plaintiffs in two shark-related lawsuits. Other Atlantic shark-related actions during this year included publication of large coastal shark, small coastal shark and pelagic shark quotas, and fishing season notifications. Several applications for Exempted Fishing Permits for sharks collections for the aquarium trade were received during the year (see Section 3 of this document for further information). The appeals process for directed and incidental shark and swordfish permits was also completed during calendar year 2000.

Other significant HMS issues that came to light during 2000 include the continued growth of a swordfish recreational fishery, particularly off the east Florida coast and mid-Atlantic regions. An ANPR requesting comments on potential methods to monitor this fishery, as well as to improve estimates of Atlantic billfish landings was also completed this year (August 9, 2000; 65 FR 48671). The vessel monitoring requirement established in the HMS FMP for all Atlantic pelagic longline vessels was delayed by several agency actions, and subsequently delayed indefinitely by a federal court ruling.

## **1.2 2000 ICCAT Accomplishments**

The following summarizes the major accomplishments achieved at the 2000 ICCAT meetings held November 13 to 20, 2000, in Marrakech, Morocco. Several management measures, such as quotas, were only established for a single year due in part to the unfinished work of ICCAT's Working Group on Allocation Criteria. The commission decided that this working group, created to address concerns of developing countries that quota allocation practices were unfair, would meet for a third time in Brussels, Belgium, from May 21-23, 2001, in an effort to finalize criteria that should be taken into account when making quota allocations.

### *Atlantic Marlin Rebuilding*

The United States successfully negotiated a two-phase rebuilding plan for Atlantic blue and white marlin. Phase One of the Atlantic marlin rebuilding plan requires that countries capturing marlins commercially reduce white marlin landings by 67 percent and blue marlin landings by 50 percent from 1999 levels. To accomplish these reductions, the plan requires the release of all live marlins taken as bycatch in commercial fisheries, but allows landing of fish unavoidably killed provided that they are not sold. The United States agreed to limit annual landings by recreational fishermen to 250 marlin, combined, to provided scientific monitoring of at least 5 percent of the Atlantic billfish tournaments, and to maintain regulations that prohibit retention of marlins on U.S. longline vessels. Phase One of the plan also encourages countries to set minimum sizes for marlins taken in recreational fisheries that are consistent with the requirements for conservation, but they may take into account the specific circumstances of local fisheries.

In Phase Two of the program, ICCAT will reassess the status of the billfish stocks and develop specific time tables to rebuild the stocks to levels that will support maximum sustainable yield. At such time, additional landings restrictions or alternative management measures such as fishing gear modifications or time and area closures may be recommended.

### *Atlantic Tunas*

ICCAT's science body advised that the total allowable catch for the western stock of bluefin tuna "should not be changed significantly from the current level..." Given this advice and noting the 20-year rebuilding program agreed by ICCAT in 1998 was only in its second year, ICCAT members that fish for western Atlantic bluefin tuna (the United States, Canada, and Japan) agreed to maintain the current 2,500 mt quota.

In stark contrast and despite scientific advice that the total catch for the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery must be reduced to 25,000 mt in order to begin rebuilding, the commission adopted an overall catch level of 29,500 mt for 2001. This catch level represents the status quo and does not take into account other factors that may lead to actual harvest levels that exceed this target. The United States expressed extreme disappointment with this recommendation as it will allow continued overfishing of the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stock and could threaten recovery

measures in the western Atlantic. An intersessional scientific meeting in 2001 will examine stock boundary issues and possible new spawning areas in the central Atlantic Ocean. ICCAT also recommended a total allowable catch levels for bigeye tuna and northern albacore as the first step toward rebuilding overfished stocks in the Atlantic.

### *Swordfish*

The United States was concerned about the overall 2001 total allowable catch for South Atlantic swordfish. While this stock is significantly healthier than eastern bluefin tuna, the target total allowable catch of 14,620 mt could allow overfishing to occur. Moreover, unlike past years, no member-specific quotas were agreed to for this fishery. Additionally, during compliance discussions, Japan reported that it had seriously exceeded its North Atlantic swordfish quota. Swordfish are a non-target species taken in Japan's bigeye tuna fishery. Although Japan had taken some actions to address this compliance problem, Japan sought help from ICCAT to rectify the situation fully. Because of concerns for the integrity of the 10-year swordfish rebuilding program adopted by ICCAT in 1999 and given the recent underharvest by the United States of its North Atlantic swordfish quota, the United States, with the full support of the U.S. longline industry, agreed to assist Japan in addressing its swordfish overharvest. Specifically, a measure was adopted that, among other things, will allow Japan access to 400 mt of unused U.S. quota for 2001 only. NMFS will publish proposed and final rules to address this allocation of quota.

## **1.3 Summary of HMS Actions Published in the Federal Register during 2000**

In summary, during calendar year 2000, the HMS Division completed a total of 3 ANPRs, 12 proposed rules, 6 final rules, 12 in-season actions (mainly related to the bluefin tuna fishery), 8 notices, 1 Emergency Rule, and 2 Notices of Availability (NOA). Table 1.1 provides a summary of all the Federal Register Notices filed during 2000 relating to specific actions taken by the HMS Division. All required analytical documents accompanied these actions (e.g., Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, RIR, Regulatory Flexibility Analyses, etc.).

**Table 1.1 Summary of 2000 NMFS HMS actions**

| <b>Action Type<br/>NMFS ID#</b>                                    | <b>CFR<br/>Part*</b> | <b>Action<br/>Description</b>  | <b>Action<br/>Pub Info</b> |
|--|----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 010600A                           | 635                  | Atl. HMS Fisheries; Atl. BFT Closure of the Angling Category<br>Large Medium/Giant BFT Fishery in the So. Area                                     | 01/13/2000;<br>65 FR 2075  |
| Proposed Rule<br>ID 121799E  | 635                  | Atl. HMS Fisheries; Additional Public Hearings; Extension<br>Comment Period on Proposed Regs to Reduce Bycatch in Atl.<br>Pelagic Longline Fishery | 01/20/2000;<br>65 FR 3199  |
| Notice<br>ID 011100E   | 600*                 | M-S Act Provisions; Atl. HMS; Applications for Exempted Fishing<br>and Scientific Research Permits; Req. Comments                                  | 01/21/2000;<br>65 FR 3419  |
| Notice<br>ID 021100D   | 635*                 | BFT Recr. Landings Reports; Proposed Information Collection;<br>Req. Comments  | 02/16/2000;<br>65 FR 7853  |
| Notice<br>ID 022500A   | 635*                 | Atl. Tuna Vessel Permits; Proposed Information; Req. Comments  | 03/01/2000;<br>65 FR 11039 |
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 102299B                           | 635                  | Atl. HMS Fisheries; Swordfish Adjustment of Annual Catch Quotas  | 03/24/2000;<br>65 FR 15873 |
| Notice<br>ID 032100A   | 635*                 | National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of<br>Sharks; Revised Time Frame   | 03/27/2000;<br>65 FR 16186 |
| Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking<br>ID 031500A; RIN 0648-AN97 | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Atl. BFT Angling Category No/So Division Line and<br>Associated Quota Adjustment   | 04/10/2000;<br>65 FR 18960 |
| Notice of Availability<br>ID 040400A                               | 635*                 | Atl. HMS Fishery Mgmt Plan (FMP) Second Errata Sheet   | 04/11/2000;<br>65 FR 19361 |
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 033100D                           | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Atl. BFT; Retention Limit Adjustment Angling Category  | 04/13/2000;<br>65 FR 19860 |
| Final Rule<br>ID 012800H; RIN 0648-AN56                            | 635                  | Atl. HMS; BFT Rec. Landings Reporting;<br>Determination of State Jurisdiction  | 04/14/2000;<br>65 FR 19860 |

| <b>Action Type<br/>NMFS ID#</b>                          | <b>CFR<br/>Part*</b> | <b>Action<br/>Description</b>   | <b>Action<br/>Pub Info</b> |
|--|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Final Rule<br>ID 040500B; RIN 0648-AJ67                  | 635                  | Atlantic HMS; Vessel Monitoring Systems<br>Delay of Effectiveness until 09/01/2000  | 04/19/2000;<br>65 FR 20918 |
| Proposed Rule<br>ID 110499B; RIN 0648-AM79               | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Pelagic Longline Mgmt; Time/Area Closures; Addl.<br>Area; Notice of Availability of DSEIS/RIR/IRFA; Req. Comments               | 04/26/2000; 65 FR<br>24440 |
| Correction to Proposed Rule<br>ID 110499B; RIN 0648-AM79 | 635                  | OFR Correction to OFR printing error in table<br>(appeared incomplete in 04/26/2000 issue)  | 05/09/2000;<br>65 FR 26877 |
| Notice<br>ID 042500A                                     | 635*                 | Atl. HMS; Issuance of EFPs for Qualifying Holders of Swo/Shark<br>Ltd Access Permits; Request for Comments                                | 05/16/2000; 65 FR<br>31149 |
| Proposed Rule<br>ID 120999B; RIN 0648-AN52               | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Atl. Swordfish Quotas; No. Albacore Tuna Rebuilding   | 05/24/2000; 65 FR<br>33519 |
| Proposed Rule<br>ID 051600B; RIN 0648-AN52               | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Trade Restrictions for BFT and Swordfish  | 05/24/2000;<br>65 FR 33517 |
| Proposed Rule<br>ID 041200D; RIN 0648-AO03               | 635                  | Atlantic HMS; Atlantic BFT Annual Specifications and HMS<br>Regulatory Amdt. Re. Authorized Gear in No. Atl. Swo Fishery                  | 05/24/2000;<br>65 FR 33513 |
| Proposed Rule<br>ID 120999B                              | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Change in Public Hearing Date for ID 120999B above  | 06/06/2000;<br>65 FR 35881 |
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 052500B                 | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Large Coastal, Small Coastal and Pelagic Sharks Quota<br>Adjustment and Fishing Season Notification                             | 06/06/2000;<br>65 FR 35855 |
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 052500B                 | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Implementation of Prohibited Species Provisions (per<br>Court Order); Large Coastal Sharks Commercial Fishery Closure<br>Change | 65 FR 38440;<br>06/21/2000 |
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 061500D                 | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Atl. BFT Harpoon Category Closure   | 65 FR 40538;<br>06/30/2000 |

| <b>Action Type<br/>NMFS ID#</b>          | <b>CFR<br/>Part*</b> | <b>Action<br/>Description</b>   | <b>Action<br/>Pub Info</b> |
|--|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Final Rule<br>ID 041200D; RIN 0648-AO03  | 635                  | Atlantic HMS; Atlantic BFT Annual Specifications and HMS<br>Regulatory Amdt. Re. Authorized Gear in No. Atl. Swo Fishery  | 65 FR 42883;<br>07/12/2000 |
| Proposed Rule<br>ID 070500C              | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Bycatch Reduction. Notice of Intent to Prepare an SEIS.<br>NOA of Biological Opinion. Scoping Meetings Announcement   | 65 FR 44753;<br>07/19/2000 |
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 072100C | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Atl. BFT; Adjustment of General Category Daily<br>Retention Limit on Previously Restricted Fishing Days   | 65 FR 46654;<br>07/31/2000 |
| Final Rule<br>ID 110499B; RIN 0648-AM79  | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Pelagic Longline Mgmt; Time/Area Closures and Gear<br>Restrictions (Live Bait Prohibition)  | 65 FR 47214;<br>08/01/2000 |
| Proposed Rule<br>ID 070500C              | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Bycatch Reduction; Additional Scoping Meetings  | 65 FR 46885;<br>08/01/2000 |
| Notice<br>062300A                        | 635*                 | Notice of Availability; Draft National Plan of Action for<br>Conservation and Management of Sharks  | 65 FR 47968;<br>08/04/2000 |
| Proposed Rule<br>032900A                 | 635                  | Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; Atl. HMS; Billfish Size<br>Limits; Monitoring Rec. Landings; Post-Release Mortality  | 65 FR 48671;<br>08/09/2000 |
| Final Rule<br>ID 040500B; RIN 0648-AJ67  | 635                  | Atlantic HMS; Vessel Monitoring Systems<br>Delay of Effectiveness until 10/01/2000  | 08/16/2000;<br>65 FR 49941 |
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 080300A | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Atl. BFT; Retention Limit Adjustment Angling Category   | 08/17/2000;<br>65 FR 50162 |
| Proposed Rule<br>ID 090600B              | 600                  | M-S Act Provisions; Notification of a Proposal for Exempted<br>Fishing Permits to Conduct Experimental Fishing for Giant BFT by<br>Purse Seine Vessels in NE Multispecies Closed Area 1 | 09/11/2000;<br>65 FR 54833 |
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 081600A | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Atl. BFT; Adjustment of General Category Daily<br>Retention Limit on Previously Restricted Fishing Days   | 09/12/2000;<br>65 FR 54970 |

| <b>Action Type<br/>NMFS ID#</b>                                    | <b>CFR<br/>Part*</b> | <b>Action<br/>Description</b>  | <b>Action<br/>Pub Info</b> |
|--|----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| (Final) Emergency Rule<br>ID 091100A                               | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Pelagic Longline Fishery; Sea Turtle Protection<br>Measures Time/Area Closure and Gear Deployment Restrictions.        | 10/13/2000;<br>65 FR 60889 |
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 101300B                           | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Atl. BFT. Inseason Transfer to General Category  | 10/20/2000;<br>65 FR 63021 |
| Final Rule Inseason Action<br>ID 101700B                           | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Atl. BFT; Retention Limit Adjustment Angling Category  | 10/25/2000;<br>65 FR 63807 |
| Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking<br>ID 110200D; RIN 0648-AO75 | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Atl. BFT; Incidental Catch of BFT in Pelagic Longline<br>Fishery (Target Catch Requirements)                           | 11/17/2000;<br>65 FR 69492 |
| Proposed Rule section<br>ID 110800C                                | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Technical Gear Workshops (Pelagic Longline Fishery)<br>aimed at reducing takes mortality of sea turtles                | 11/21/2000;<br>65 FR 69898 |
| Proposed Rule section<br>ID 110800C                                | 635                  | Atl. HMS; Technical Gear Workshops (Pelagic Longline Fishery)<br>aimed at reducing takes mortality of sea turtles - Postponement | 11/29/2000;<br>65 FR 71085 |
| Proposed Rule section<br>ID 110800C                                | 635                  | Fishing Season Notification for Atlantic large coastal sharks, small<br>coastal sharks, and pelagic sharks                       | 12/5/2000;<br>65 FR 75867  |
| Proposed Rule section<br>ID 031500A; RIN 0648-AN97                 | 635                  | Atlantic Tunas Reporting, Fishery Allocations, and Regulatory<br>Adjustments   | 12/7/2000;<br>65 FR 76601  |
| Final Rule section<br>ID120999B, RIN0648-AN52                      | 635                  | Implementation of ICCAT Recommendations, annual swordfish<br>landings quotas, dead discard allowance, importation prohibitions   | 12/12/2000;<br>65 FR 77523 |

\* Part 600/635 not listed in FR publication, but M-S Provisions are codified under part 600 and all HMS regulations are consolidated under Part 635.